

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A pre-expanded tampon pledget comprising a cellulosic fiber, wherein the tampon pledget has a density about 0.01 grams per cubic centimeter (g/cc) to about 0.39 g/cc and an absorbency about 6 grams to about 18 grams.

2. The pre-expanded pledget of claim 1, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

3. The pre-expanded pledget of claim 1, wherein said absorbency is achieved by said cellulosic fiber without the use of a transfer layer.

4. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 8 cc to about 52 cc.

5. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 1.3 grams to about 4.5 grams.

6. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about

0.5 inches to about 1.75 inches.

7. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

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8. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

9. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

10. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

11. A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.31 g/cc and an absorbency about 6 grams to about 9 grams.

12. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein said density is about 0.15 g/cc to about 0.29 g/cc.

13. The pre-expanded pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

14. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 13, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

5 15. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

16. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 7 cc to about 12 cc.

10 17. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 13, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 1.6 grams to about 2.4 grams.

15 18. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.5 inches to about 0.8 inches.

20 19. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

20. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

21. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

22. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

23. A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.32 g/cc and an absorbency about 9 grams to about 12 grams.

24. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein said density is about 0.15 g/cc to about 0.30 g/cc.

25. The pre-expanded pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

26. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 25, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

27. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

28. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 9 cc to about 14 cc.

29. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 25, wherein  
5 said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 2.25 grams to about 2.75 grams.

30. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about  
10 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

31. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

32. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein  
15 the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

33. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

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34. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

35. A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.05 g/cc and an absorbency about 9 grams to about 12 grams.

5 36. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein said density is about 0.02 g/cc to about 0.035 g/cc.

37. The pre-expanded pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

10 38. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 37, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

15 39. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

40. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 40 cc to about 60 cc.

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41. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 37, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 1.1 grams to about 1.7 grams.

42. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 1.25 inches to about 1.75 inches.

5 43. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

44. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

10 45. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

15 46. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

20 47. A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.35 g/cc and an absorbency about 12 grams to about 15 grams. ~

48. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein said density is about 0.20 g/cc to about 0.33 g/cc.

49. The pre-expanded pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

50. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 49, wherein  
5 said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

51. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

10 52. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 10 cc to about 15 cc.

15 53. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 49, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 3 grams to about 3.5 grams.

20 54. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

55. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.



56. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

57. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein  
5 the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

58. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

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63. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

64. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein  
5 the tampon pledget has a volume about 10 cc to about 15 cc.

65. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 61, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 3.5 grams to about 4.5 grams.

66. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

67. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein  
15 the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

68. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

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69. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

70. The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

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